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SYCAMORE HIGH SCHOOL CLAIMS REGIONAL SCIENCE BOWL TITLE

CINCINNATI, Ohio, February 10, 1998--It may have seemed to be a cool, calm day on Saturday, Feb. 7, when the 7th Annual Greater Cincinnati Regional Science Bowl was held at Cincinnati State Technical and Community College, but the competition inside was hot and frenzied. Twenty-four area high school teams had the opportunity to test their knowledge of science in strenuous competition, but only one team could go home the winner. This year, it was Sycamore High School.

Four students from Sycamore defeated 23 other local teams to become the 1998 regional champion at the competition organized by the Fernald Environmental Management Project.

The Sycamore team adeptly responded to questions on the subjects of mathematics, chemistry, computer science, astronomy, biology, and earth science to come out on top. The team will travel to Washington, D.C. May 1-4 to compete in the National Science Bowl® against 60 regional winners from other U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) sites from across the country.

Sycamore's winning team members, David Bender, Kevin Lacher, Blake Scholl, Jonah Knobler won all but one match Saturday, losing only to Lakota West High School. Sycamore then came back from the losers' bracket to defeat Lakota West twice for the title. Both top teams defeated schools assembled from Kentucky, Indiana, and across Ohio.

"My role was to be there to support the kids and take care of the paperwork, it was the team that did all of the work," said proud coach Jim Smanik, a science teacher at the high school. "We came to play because we love to compete, and of course, it's fun to end up winning."

DOE's National Science Bowl® celebrates it's eighth year nationally and it's seventh year sponsored by the Fernald Environmental Management Project in the Cincinnati area. Prizes for the top four national teams include international trips to various Science Forums.

Lakota West High School finished second, Cincinnati Country Day finished third, and Moeller took fourth place.

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